



South Central Public Health District

Prevent. Promote. Protect.

1020 Washington Street North * Twin Falls, ID 83301

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PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Second Rabid Bat Found In Twin Falls

On Tuesday, September 25, South Central Public Health District received a report of a rabid bat captured in Twin Falls. This is the second rabid bat found within the city limits this September. Although no other rabid bats have been reported in the eight county SCPHD area, there have been reports of nine rabid bats throughout Idaho so far this year. Last year there were 26 rabid bats confirmed at various locations across the state.

According to SCPHD Epidemiologist Manager, Cheryle Becker, it's important to remember that bats are wild animals. Although bats usually are harmless, they are the only animal in Idaho to naturally carry the rabies virus. Bats are nocturnal creatures and if one is seen during the day, it may be sick.

People usually come in contact with bats by a pet bringing home a sick or dead bat. When encountering a sick or injured bat, do not touch it and keep it away from pets. If a dead bat is found, and no pets or people have been exposed to it, pick the bat up with a shovel or other implement and place it in a bag. Tie the bag securely and place in the garbage where it can not be disturbed by pets. If you suspect that you have been scratched or bitten by a bat or other wild animal, it is important to seek medical attention immediately. If rabies is detected, today's therapy is effective and relatively painless, consisting of a series of injections over a 28 day period.

If you do have pets, keep their vaccinations up to date to help prevent them from getting rabies. It is important that indoor pets also have current vaccinations. If your pet is bitten by a rabid wild animal, seek veterinary assistance immediately. To help bat-proof your home, check and repair chimneys, roof peaks, loose screenings, and others areas where bats might be able to enter.

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